

# Habitat Project Proposal

**Proposal Title:** Willow Creek Habitat Improvement Project

**Proposal Number:** 1101

**DWR Region:** Central Region

**Lead Agency:** Private

**County:** Juab

**Project Manager:** Mark Farmer

**PM Phone:** 8014915651

**Regional Priority:** Within Focus Area

**Project Type:** Terrestrial Habitat

**Proposed Start Date:** 09/01/2008

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**Project Location:** Project area is near the Mouth of Willow Creek canyon, about 2 miles east of the town of Mona

**Project Description:** Habitat improvement of 100 acres of deer winter range on private land east of the town of Mona

**Description of Problem/Need:** Winter range along the east side of Interstate 15 between Mona and Nephi is lacking. Much of this area has been historically heavily grazed and is in poor condition. Annual cheatgrass and other annual weeds dominate the area. This project will control the weeds and seed desirable grasses, forbs, and shrubs, which will provide wintering deer and elk winter forage.

**Objectives:** Control cheatgrass and annual weeds. Establish desirable perennial grasses, forbs, and shrubs. Reduce the risk of wildfire with permanent green strips along roadways to act as fire breaks.

**Relevance to Strategic Plans:** The project area occurs within the sagebrush steppe which is a key habitat type identified in the WAP. This area supports mule deer (Tier III) and numerous other species of concern (Tier III) including neo-tropical birds and raptors.

The proposed treatments lie within Central Region UPCD focus areas.

The proposed projects will address some of the habitat management strategies outlined in the deer and elk management plan for Wildlife Management Unit 16, Central Mountains – Nebo, including: continue to restore and improve sagebrush steppe habitats critical to deer according to DWR's Habitat Initiative; cooperate with federal land management agencies and private landowners in carrying out habitat improvements such as reseeding, controlled burns, water developments etc. on public and private lands; and maintain and/or enhance forage production through direct range improvements throughout the unit to achieve population management objectives.

The proposed projects will address the following goals and objectives of the Division of Wildlife Resources most recent strategic management plan:

Resource Goal: expand wildlife populations and conserve sensitive species by protecting and improving wildlife habitat.

Objective 1: protect existing wildlife habitat and improve 500,000 acres of critical habitats and watersheds throughout the state by 2010.

Objective 3: conserve sensitive species to prevent them from becoming listed as threatened or endangered.

Constituency Goal: Achieve broad-based support for Division programs and budgets by demonstrating the value of wildlife to all citizens of Utah.

Objective 2: improve communication with wildlife organizations, public officials, private landowners, and government agencies to obtain support for Division programs.

**Potential Risks:** Failure to control cheatgrass. Failure of seeded plants to establish.

**Proposed Methods:** Areas to be drill seeded will be sprayed with the herbicide Plateau in September of 2008. In October of 2008, sprayed areas will be drill seeded with perennial grasses, forbs, and shrubs. Green strips approximately 100 feet wide will be planted along existing roads to provide fire breaks.

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**Shapefile Name:** willow creek project

**Seed Source:** GBRC

**UPCD Reg Team Coord Date:** 01/15/2008

**Proposed NEPA Action:**

**Proposed Arch Action:**

☒ **Vegetation Monitoring**    ☐ **Wildlife Monitoring**

**Monitoring Details:** One range trend study will be established in the treatment area.

**Cons. Outreach Details:**

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## SPECIES BENEFITING

Mule Deer

Elk

Neotropical Birds

Rio Grande Wild Turk

## LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner	Acres
Private	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

## PROPOSED FUNDING

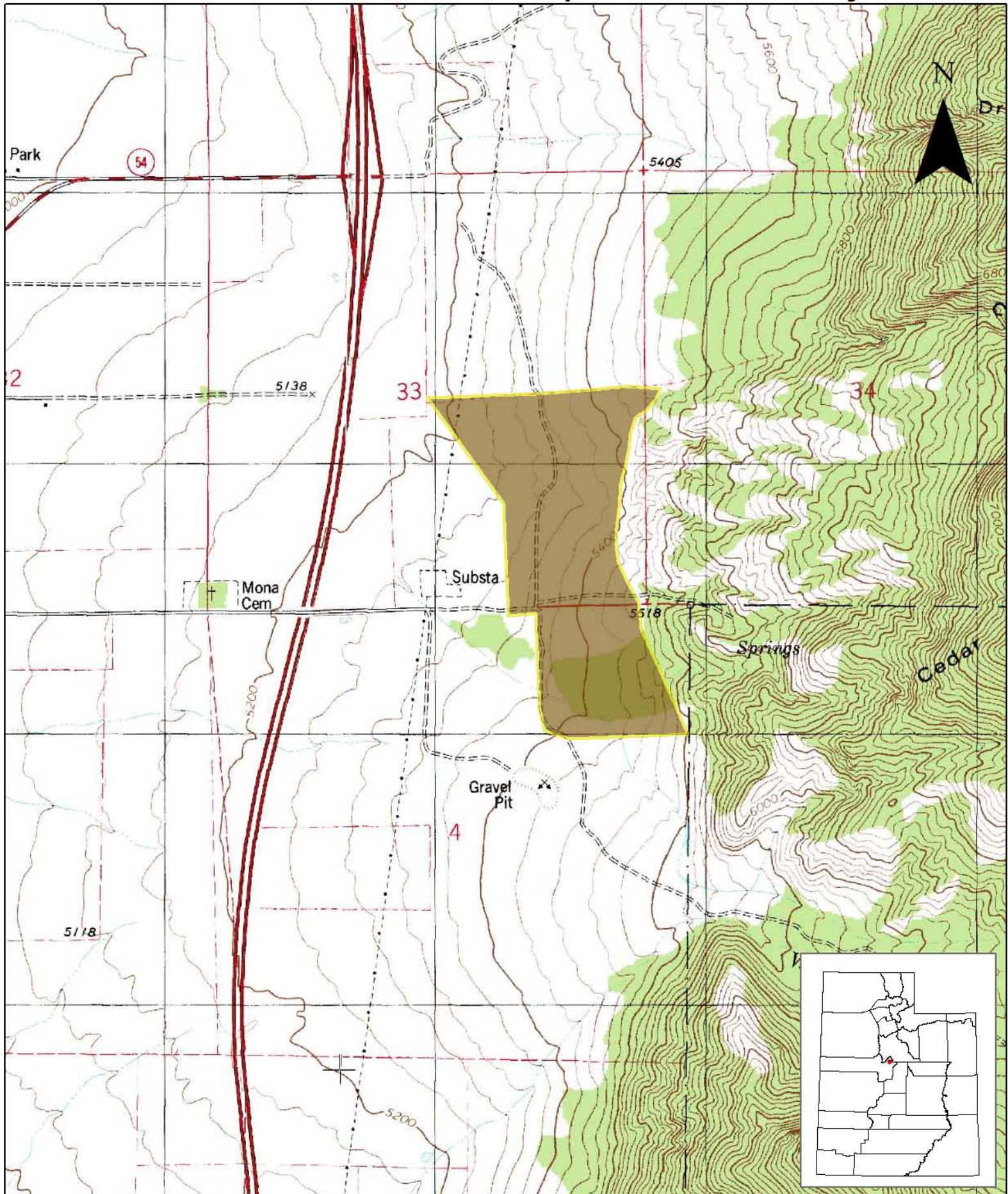
Source	Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
Private	\$3,200.00		\$0.00
DNR Watershed (FY09)	\$6,500.00		\$0.00
	\$0.00		\$0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$9,700.00</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>

## PROPOSED BUDGET

Item	Description	DWR Account	In Kind/ Partner Contrib.
Materials and Supplies	5 gallons of Plateau @ \$300/gallon	\$1,500.00	\$0.00
Personal Services	drill seeding 100 acres @ 20/acre	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Contractual Services	aerial spraying of 100 acres @ \$12/acre	\$0.00	\$1,200.00
Seed (GBRC)	seed for 100 acres @ \$50/acre	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$6,500.00</b>	<b>\$3,200.00</b>

## Project Map:

# Willow Creek Habitat Improvement Project



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